YOUTH LEADERS
Young victims of the BP oil spill take a stand.

ROXANA SABERI Q&A
The American journalist, former national JACL scholarship winner and Gala honoree talks human rights. >> PAGE 3

TRANSFORMER
Former ‘Gilmore Girls’ star takes on Michael Bay.
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Actress Keiko Agena goes from small screen to the silver screen. >> PAGE 5

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**The Eastern District Council Congratulates Our JACL 2010 Scholarship Winners and Welcomes Those Coming to the East Coast**

**Winner**
- Gregory Bennett
- Taylour Chang
- Catherine Ishitani
- Christopher Lapinig
- Jacqueline Mac
- Tara Ohrtman
- Natalie Rojas
- Naomi Schurr
- Shirley Tang

**Home Chapter**
- Washington, DC
- Honolulu
- Twin Cities
- New England
- Chicago
- Florin
- Portland
- South Bay
- Washington, DC

**Educational Institution**
- Georgetown University
- Yale University
- Princeton University
- Yale Law School
- University of Maryland
- Princeton University
- Wellesley College
- MIT
- Univ. of California, Hastings

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Leigh Nishi-Strattner (left) is among the many winners of the 2010 JACL National Scholarships. PAGES 6-14
Former JACL Scholarship Winner Talks Human Rights

For 100 days last year, Roxana Saberi was incarcerated in Iran for a crime of espionage she says she did not commit.

Behind bars, the journalist who is of Iranian and Japanese descent, was not even allowed to have a pen or paper. Since her release, Saberi, 33, has traveled all over the U.S. to talk about her experiences in Iran, human rights and her new book “Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran.”

“I think if you are passionate about peacefully standing up for civil and human rights, you will find a way to do so,” said Saberi in an email to the Pacific Citizen. “Every person’s actions count. When enough people call out together for change over a continuous period of time, they can make a difference.”

Before she snagged headlines for her imprisonment, Saberi, a former Miss North Dakota from Fargo, was working to get in touch with her Japanese identity. She is a former JACL national scholarship winner and an honoree at the Sept. 16 National JACL “Salute to Champions” Gala.

As a former youth member, Saberi responds to questions below about identity and human rights from today’s JACL youth members.

Has your experience in prison changed the way you perceive yourself and your Iranian-Japanese American identity? — Mariko Newton, 19, Portland JACL

Saberi: I am proud of my American, Japanese and Iranian backgrounds. Of course, ultimately, I consider myself a human being, and in prison I learned that we are all capable of suffering from the same things and deserve the same universal human rights.

What is the most important idea that all Americans should know about Iran? — Alex Honjyo, 19, Lake Washington JACL

Saberi: There are many important points I believe Americans could benefit to know about Iran. One of them is that many ordinary Iranians like the American people and want better relations with the United States. Another is that I believe the majority of Iranians would like a progressive, democratic government that respects human rights. I hope they can overcome the many obstacles to this goal sooner rather than later.

How did you feel being imprisoned for something you believed in? — Chao 19, Berkeley JACL

Saberi: At first, I was in denial. I didn’t want to accept that I was in prison. I was in denial of the present moment and stuck in the past. I kept saying to myself, ‘I can’t believe I’m here. I wish I had known earlier … I would’ve run away.’ I also felt anger — anger at my captors, anger at myself, anger at God for not rescuing me.

Later, I gained much more courage through introspection and by meeting other political prisoners, once I was transferred out of solitary confinement. They inspired me, and I came to feel that the only life I wanted to live was one in which I acted in accordance with my conscience. I gradually became more defiant and confident toward my captors, knowing that I was standing up for what I believed in.

How did your experience as a detainee change (or not change) your perspective on Iran in terms of human rights, gender equality, or the rule of law? — Caroline Chao 19, Berkeley JACL

Saberi: Before I was imprisoned, I had sometimes reported on human rights issues, but I had felt like an outsider observer. When I was arrested, I was deprived of certain rights, such as the right to a lawyer (and one of my choice), the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a fair and public trial, and the right to tell my family where I was. I realized that these were basic rights that any prisoner anywhere in the world would want, and I pitied anyone who did not enjoy them.

I also came to know several women political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, whose only crime was to peacefully stand up for basic human rights. Some of them had experienced much more injustice than I. Given these experiences, as well as reports of the force and violence used by Iranian authorities against peaceful demonstrators last year, I feel that the human rights violations I had heard of in Iran before my incarceration became much more real to me. I believe that now I am free, I have a responsibility and a desire to join many others in speaking out for those in Iran who are pursuing human rights and struggling to make their own voices heard.

Have you gone back to Iran since your experience? — Sydney Shiroyama, 19, Sequoia JACL

Saberi: I have not returned to Iran since I left in May 2009, but I fell in love with the country and made many good friends. My captors, I believe, were not representative of the majority of the Iranian people, and in fact, oftentimes political prisoners are highly admired by much of society. I hope I can go back and visit Iran someday, depending on the situation there.

I would like to believe that all human beings are inherently ‘good’ and not ‘evil’,” said Roxana Saberi.

After witnessing so much ‘good’ and ‘evil’ of human spirits in Iran, what do you believe is important for you to do as a journalist and a civil rights activist to help spread more ‘good’ human spirits in our society and around the world? — Rachel Seeman, 18, Portland JACL

Saberi: I would like to believe that all human beings are inherently ‘good’ and not ‘evil,’ although some people have a heavier ‘overlay’ covering their true spirits than do others. I think that a good education (and I use this in a broad sense — not just an educational education but also an education in life) is key to spreading more goodness around the world. I think change begins within ourselves, but if more of us care about what is happening to others who are unable to help themselves, whether they are in our own communities or on the other side of the world, goodness is bound to spread! As for me, I hope that I can do my part by keeping myself well informed, giving talks, writing about human rights and feeling compassion.

EXTRA! Read more of Roxana Saberi’s interview: www.pacifícitizen.org
Gulf Coast Youth Help Rebuild After Oil Spill

By Naeja J. Ko
Reporter

This time last year Ro Le would be busy shrimping in the Gulf waters with his nephew serving as his deckhand.

Now having been displaced from fishing for about four months, Le’s nephew says his uncle sits quietly at home overwhelmed by his obligations as the former breadwinner.

“You don’t know the stress that he goes through,” said Le’s nephew Tung Tran at a roundtable meeting suffering he went through, so now he goes through,” said Le’s nephew Tran said, repeating his uncle’s sentiments.

In Katrina you could rebuild back and you could still do shrimping because it’s just a hurricane. But with this one, who knows how long it will last,” Le said through a translator.

The fisher community on the Gulf Coast may not have all the answers about when they will return to their normal fishing routines, but new information about the April 20 accident that led to the oil spill has come to light.

BP released on Sept. 8 its report on the Deepwater Horizon accident. The investigation, headed by the company’s safety chief Mark Bly, pinpointed eight key findings that caused the Gulf oil spill. Hydrocarbons that leaked into the well and Deepwater Horizon led to the explosion that took 11 people’s lives.

According to the report the cause of the accident was the result of a series of mechanical and human failures.

BP says other parties also share in the responsibility for the accident. In the report they blame Halliburton Co., which was responsible for the cementing of the well, and rig owner Transocean. Transocean was at fault because of “ineffective maintenance management system for Deepwater Horizon.”

“We have said from the beginning that the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon was a shared responsibility among many entities,” said Bob Dudley, BP’s incoming chief executive, in a press release. “This report makes that conclusion even clearer, presenting a detailed analysis of the facts and recommendations for improvement both for BP and the other parties involved.”

Critics say BP’s report deflects responsibility and spreads the blame among other companies.

Government investigators will now analyze the 300-ton blowout preventer that was retrieved on Sept. 3 from the seafloor. Their aim: to better understand why the blowout preventer failed to stop the spill.

“A disaster of this magnitude cannot be addressed overnight, but OCA and our partners believe there are some immediate needs that should be addressed,” said OCA Executive Director George Wu, adding that the physical and mental health of the community needs to be dealt with.

“We have a long ways to go, but we have a long ways to go, but we have a long ways to go,” said Father Vien Nguyen, referring to the effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. “I’m concerned about the long term. Really I know it’s serious, but I’m not concerned about the immediate claims situation because that’s immediate. What about the next 20 years?”

He asked if there would be a separate claims fund to help the fisher community in the future.

“We don’t do that then two years from now, if not already, the government will walk away and say ‘it’s done,’” Father Nguyen added.

As BP and others hammer out who is at fault for what is being called the biggest oil spill in history, community leaders on the Gulf Coast say they are seeing the impacts of the spill trickle down to the youth in the fisher community.

“It’s definitely affecting young people in many ways from home dynamics to eating and all that stuff,” said Minh Nguyen, founder and executive director of the Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association of New Orleans.

Minh Nguyen says the BP oil spill is also impacting college students whose parents are in the fisher community.

“A lot of them [students] because their parents make a certain amount of money, they don’t qualify for financial aid,” Minh Nguyen explained, whose father is a fisherman in Louisiana.

“So their parents have to pay for tuition. Now this situation, there’s already a lot of kids who are not going to college because of that.”

Le’s son and daughter who attend college in Lafayette, La., are working part time jobs to help pay for their education in addition to using financial aid, Tran said.

But Tran says he doubts that the Le children will be forced to drop out of college.

The fisher community, Tran says, does not need for BP to dol out more claim money. They simply need work, he says.

“You got to understand I’ve been to like 10 meetings,” Tran explained, adding that he’s grateful for the activists and volunteers who spend time and money to visit with the fisher community. “It’s not making a difference. But I still go to the meetings, I still support all these meetings.”

“And give us a job and we’ll do it. That’s the simple problem we have throughout this thing.”

Second in a three-part series on the Asian American community in the Gulf Coast.
Keiko Agena: From ‘Gilmore Girls’ to ‘Transformers 3’

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

There are moments in time when Keiko Agena says her love of acting can wane, but right now the actress says she has fallen back in love with the craft.

A role in Ken Narasaki’s “No-No Boy” reawakened her love of acting. Acting, she says, is like a drug. During a great scene it’s a high. Afterwards you’re always looking for a better high. Of course there are also comedowns.

Agena, 36, says she was bit by the acting bug at 10 and got hooked. She acted opposite Alexis Bledel for seven years as Lane Kim on the TV show “Gilmore Girls,” before it was cancelled in 2007. The Hawaii-born actress is heading back to television next month to play a doctor on the FOX TV show “House.”

When she’s not on television, Agena can be found in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo or Chinatown donning a blue wig as one of the Madeleines, a character who does not talk but prefers to dance and divvy up candy all night. It is a character that she and friend Traci Kato-Kiriyama play at Mitoones Open Jam, which is organized by her husband Shin Kawasaki.

This year the Japanese American will also take to the big screen in Michael Bay’s “Transformers 3,” as Mearing’s aide. The on-set experience, she says, may have sparked a new love for another craft: puppets.

Pacific Citizen: You’ve acted opposite Alexis Bledel for seven years as Lane Kim on the TV show “Gilmore Girls.” Now you’ll co-star with Autobots in “Transformers 3.” Can you tell me about your part?

Keiko Agena: It’s a small part. The best thing about it is that I play Frances McDormand’s aide. She is amazing. I love working with her, she’s so down-to-earth and no matter what scene she is doing, she draws you in.

P.C.: What was it like working on the set of ‘Transformers’?

Agena: It is so fun! I get to go back actually at the end of this month. One of the things that I remember the most is that they have these huge poles, it’s like the Transformers ...

So to give you an eye line for the Transformers they set up a huge pole and they put a little light bulb on the top of the pole so that everybody is looking at the same thing because they’re going to enter in the CGI later.

P.C.: Rumors have circulated online about Michael Bay’s intense behavior as a director. Did you experience any of that?

Agena: He is definitely a memorable director. I would say personally I get along with him fine. I think he’s a funny guy.

P.C.: Were there any on-set moments that stand out?

Agena: There’s this one scene where they have these little Autobots and you’re supposed to watch them go into a room. ... So what are they going to use? They fashioned basically a little toy car, a little toy truck actually. And they kind of paste these little Autobot looking things on it [laughs].

There are tons of people that can run this thing, I mean the props department or whoever. But Michael Bay is like, ‘No, I’ll do it.’ He’s running the little remote control car himself in the scene and just giggling, just having fun.

P.C.: Looking back at the challenges you faced as an up-and-coming actress, do you have any regrets?

Agena: I am grateful for every opportunity that I have ever gotten but I feel like we are all continually striving to do great work and get great parts.

I think that every audition is a challenge to do your very best. And it’s a personal one. No one can tell you that you did a good job or a bad one. On the car ride home it is always a conversation you have with yourself to determine if you are satisfied or not with the effort that you have put forth.

Celebrating Tomorrow’s Leaders

The tradition of the National JACL Scholarships and Awards Program goes all the way back to 1946. That’s over 60 years of recognizing the Asian Pacific American community’s best and brightest. This year, more than $65,000 was awarded to 24 JACLers from across the country. Read excerpts from their award-winning essays about their academic and community success.

Applicants were asked to respond in essay form to this question:

‘What would you do to make JACL more relevant to the younger generation of Asian Americans?’
In order to invest in a promising future, the Japanese American Citizens League must prepare youth and help them realize that they are truly the ones that hold the power and key to the door of tomorrow. Throughout history, many efforts have been put forth to stop prejudice, however prejudice is still present in society. As a youth, I have learned that the only way that we can create change is to open our minds and welcome new ideas. Learning about the past is important in order to prevent history from repeating itself. In order for the youth to shape the future, the JACL needs to outreach to more youth to create strong youth chapters, or “Jr. JACLs.” My local “Jr. JACL” is called Unite People, and it attracts students interested in volunteering and learning about civil rights. It is open to all youth, not just those of Japanese American descent. This is important because in the spirit of the JACL mission statement, our goal is to ‘advocate for the civil and human rights of Japanese Americans and others.’ If other chapters around the nation opened their “Jr. JACLs” to other minorities, the JACL would increase membership, strength and popularity among youth.

Mr. and Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship
Mr. Moriuchi, a successful fruit farmer, is the past New Jersey state director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmers Home Administration. Moriuchi, a professor of ikebana, is president of the American Guild of Flower Arrangers. The Moriuchis currently reside in Medford, New Jersey.

Kalla Yoshitomi

Puyallup JACL
University of Washington
"Other than trying to find relevance in modern day issues, we can empower them by showing the importance of remembering and carrying on the rich Japanese American culture that we have. As our community demographics change from people who are of 100% Japanese ancestry, to mixed race and multilethnic ancestry becomes less important than the affinity and appreciation of Japanese culture and traditions. If we make sure that there are still odori classes, judo dojos and Japanese festivals such as aki matsuri and odori, culture and identity is preserved for future generations. Not only is it imperative to have these resources for youth to become involved in, we have to show them the importance of sharing history with others but also providing a link to their own family history, tradition and values. In a time when cultural identity is harder and harder to define, it is important to have someone show them that there are other people discovering their own identities. This identity connects us emotionally but also gives us a chance to be around a strong group of people that accept them for who we are. The Japanese American Citizens League gives us a place to be around people with common interests and cultural values and beliefs. Projects such as the Project: Community! program through the Japanese Culture and Community Center of Washington in conjunction with the JACL help youth understand history and how they fit into the Japanese community today. We need to make sure that there are workshops and programs that help Japanese American youth see the importance of identity and culture in order to strengthen and build our community.”

Mas and Majiu Uyesugi Memorial Scholarship
Majiu Uyesugi was an early pioneer from Kumamoto, Japan. After settling in Marysville, she raised and educated a family of eight children during the Depression. This scholarship was established to commemorate her belief in youth and education.

Catherine Ishitani
Twin Cities JACL
Princeton University
"Youth-oriented functions such as public parties, games, and mixers are always a fantastic way to attract teens. From my experience, young people are enthusiastic about any event that involves food or music, and if they have a good time or discover a cause that moves them, they will bring their friends and show up again. A function that combines entertainment activities with informational speaking would be an effective tool for reaching energetic, compassionate young people.”

Deni and June Uejima Memorial Scholarship
The Uejimas were committed to the Japanese American community. Longtime members of the San Gabriel Valley JACL, Deni served multiple terms as the chapter’s president.

Naomi Schurr
South Bay JACL
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
"As a high school student, I know that my fellow students can be motivated to tackle an interesting challenge if it provides a reward..."
CRF hosts competitions in California at the exhibits, documentaries, websites, research avenues through which I believe the JACL can reach out to many elementary, middle, and high school students is through the National History Day (NHD) contest. In particular, the CRF could sponsor a special award through the Constitutional Rights foundation (CRF) History Day in California competition, a competition engaging thousands of students and teachers across the state. Every year, the CRF hosts competitions in California at the county and state levels to promote the study and presentation of historical topics based on the NHD annual theme, through student exhibits, documentaries, websites, research papers, or dramatic reenactments. 

Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Japanese Cultural Scholarship

Hanayagi Rokumie, a noted teacher of Japanese dance. This award is given to a student who excels in a Japanese cultural activity.

Lindsay Oda
Eden Township JACL
San Francisco State University

“Youth programs might seem like an assured way to be relevant to the younger generation of Asian Americans; however, if it isn’t an assured way to reach them, the JACL must seek support and advertising from young Asian American communities. Having JACL collaborate with popular, young Asian American communities will inherently make it relevant to their youth. JACL has done a good job of involving itself in the Japanese American community. However, this community contains all generations and is simply Japanese. Right now we should involve ourselves in places like the hip-hop dance community, the community of Asian American entertainers on YouTube, and the many Asian American blogs from Korean pop music (Soomp), to Japanese fashion (Japanese Streets), and cultural humor (My Mom is a K-pop), which are communities of their own. These are all popular and relevant with the younger generation of Asian Americans, so putting our name next to theirs will create positive interest from potential members.”

Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

Gordon Wong
Lodi JACL
University of California, San Diego

“T believe that direct involvement between the JACL and local schools would be a great way to tailor to the younger students. By doing various cultural demonstrations at local elementary, middle, or high schools, the JACL can make students aware of the association and what they are all about. Making students familiar with the organization can help the JACL catch the attention of the younger generation by sparking their interest and inviting them to come get involved. At the high school level, working with a campus’ Asian club or Japanese club can increase youth involvement at their JACL chapters and possibly a dual membership with the school club as well as the national JACL.”

Nicole Gaddie
Salt Lake City JACL
Seattle University

“T believe we should begin involvement at a very young age. We could have JACL activities specifically designed for ages 8 to 12. In our chapter we have a group of JACL teens called the Jr. JAYS. They plan activities and help at festivals. This is great, however we
don’t have any events planned specifically for younger children. Children feel more comfortable around other children their own age — we should make a group similar to the Jr. JAYS for kids 6 to 12. This group would be a great way to introduce them to the JACL and show them the values JACL supports. They could combine some of their activities with JACL mentors to learn from them and get to know their JACL chapter members. In addition to this, we should also promote teens to create JACL community clubs. Most teens don’t know the JACL exists; by creating a club in high school, teens would have opportunities for volunteerism and the opportunity to meet fellow Asian Americans. These clubs are not limited to high school. I think colleges would benefit greatly if they too had JACL clubs. The JACL provides a sense of community that would ease the transition to college. The clubs in high school and college could meet on a regular basis and discuss emerging issues that are affecting the JACL today. Issues are not limited to the JACL. They could discuss environmental problems as well as possible solutions to these problems. The clubs could team up with other clubs around the state for service projects, meetups and activities.”

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Saburo Kido Undergraduate Scholarship

Kido was one of the architects of the National JACL structure and its constitution. His service to the JACL spanned over 50 years.

Alyssa Chow

Sacramento JACL
University of California, San Diego

“While Japanese Americans were for the most part unable to personally document their experiences in such monumental events as Japanese American internment and the dropping of the atomic bombs, that level of censorship no longer exists to hold them back and they should take advantage of those technologies to the fullest. Thus, in order for the JACL to make itself more relevant to the younger generation of Asian Americans, it should utilize the technologies of mass media and documentation. In an era of globalization, mass media serves as an invaluable tool, connecting Asian Americans to cultures and information from all over the world. However, in the chaotic shuffle of boundless information provided by mass media such as the Internet, Asian American culture as a prevailing presence begins to lose its footing in the everyday lives of Asian Americans themselves. This globalization is also creating a similar monochrome effect that the atomic bomb did, in that it has eliminated the geographic barriers to information flow throughout the world, significantly increasing information accessibility. This also proves difficult because of the growing number of multi-ethnic Asian American children who identify with multiple cultures, digressing to another entirely different issue of Asian American identity. In order for the JACL to make sure that Asian American culture does not fade into the throngs of unidentified participants in mass media, it must forge a proactive path towards securing a spot in the globalizing world, and perpetuate the solidarity that must be shared amongst Asian American communities in preserving their cultures while at the same time embracing the changes that globalization introduces.”

Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship

Taihei Fukumoto

This scholarship was established in honor of Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe, the JACL’s first elected national president.
In order to reach the younger generation of Asian Americans, the JACL could benefit by creating their accounts for the college and university sub-chapters to further increase exposure. The JACL could convene with the college and university sub-chapters to determine issues which the younger generation of Asian Americans deem relevant, both locally and globally. A large portion of the younger generation often feels incapable of effecting change due to a sense of a lack of power. Such an opportunity to work directly with the JACL would provide the younger generation with a sense of empowerment, as well as an invaluable experience. By doing so, the JACL, in coordination with the college and university sub-chapters, would take action to address issues wholly relevant to the younger generation of Asian Americans. Such coordinated action would increase the JACL membership of the younger generation and would help to form the new generation of Asian American civil rights leaders.

Seattle JACL

Arizona State University

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In addition to academic excellence, Jeremy Lee has musical talent.
University of Washington

"What would you do to make the JACL more relevant to the younger generation of Asian Americans? One idea I had immediately after reading this prompt was to teach children and teenagers some of the history of Asian Americans. Members could speak at school assemblies or other such gatherings about some of the things that Asian Americans have achieved and endured. Topics such as the internment, discrimination, labor, or politics could all be discussed through the perspective of the Asian American community. Hopefully, discovering the history of their people could inspire some Asian American students to seek to advance their future. I think that many would be surprised at the amount of time and effort young people can dedicate to a worthy cause. For example, during my time as a member and officer of Key Club, I've seen just how passionate teenagers can be about serving their communities. If we in the JACL could convince teens that our cause is worthy of their time, we could begin to draw more members."

Shigeru "Shig" Nakahira Memorial Scholarship

A longtime JACL member, Shig was described as a good friend, a 442nd RCT veteran, a capable accountant, an excellent bowler, and a quiet doer of good deeds.

Monica Matsumoto

Stockton JACL

Rice University

"My grandparents inspired my interest in my Japanese American heritage, and they have taught me invaluable lessons about tolerance, respect, and responsibility as a neighbor and as a citizen of the United States. At the Governor's School Foreign Language Academy for Japanese, I felt honored to get to know Momiyama-sensei, a highly respected former senior linguist at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. His lectures focused on Japanese history, but his demeanor, personal anecdotes, and words of advice were more important lessons than any I could learn in a classroom. Countless other adults have enriching stories of their own successes and tribulations that would benefit all listeners—we just have to find them. Young Americans lead such busy lives today with countless distractions. The most assured way to make the JACL more relevant to them is to open opportunities for involvement—involve them in an impact that extends beyond the membership card. This involvement must be active and rewarding, whether that means spending time with friends at lively JACL events and taking part in fundraisers, or sharing ideas and experiences with senior leaders of the organization. Making these connections will, in turn, create a community, not just a collection of members."

Sam S. Kuwahara

Memorial Scholarship

Tara Ohrtman

Florin JACL

Princeton University

"I believe that to make itself more relevant to the younger generation of Asian Americans, the JACL should reach out to all Hapa in the community, foster an atmosphere in which questions such as racial and patriotic identity can be actively discussed and questioned, and continue its efforts to educate the general public about the internment. As the internment was a uniquely Japanese American experience, it has helped shape the identity of Japanese Americans ever since. I feel that wider understanding of the internment would create an atmosphere throughout the nation in which I could be proud of my family's history as a Japanese American, without persecution for my racial heritage and absolutely free of war guilt."

Gregory Bennett

Washington, D.C. JACL

Georgetown University

"I believe the relevance of the JACL to Asian American youth of my generation is not limited to the opportunities it can bring to us in terms of advocating for our rights or establishing ourselves in our respective communities. Rather, I feel that my generation has much to benefit from the intrinsic, embracing community that exists within the JACL, so that we can realize the importance of forming bonds with people who understand our unique Asian American culture, as well as develop the strength to stand in solidarity amidst the complexities that come with becoming adults in this fast-paced society. Our experience in the university system is only the introduction to much more adverse challenges that await us post-graduation. Finding a group in which we can take solace in times of distress, take shelter in the face of hardship, and take a breath of relief and joy in the arms of accepting community members is of the utmost importance to the younger generation of Asian Americans to which I belong. The JACL can provide all of these things for us and more, and I only hope to promote this fact above all other things to my peers."

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Stockton JACL

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Washington, D.C. JACL

Georgetown University

"I believe the relevance of the JACL to Asian American youth of my generation is not limited to the opportunities it can bring to us in terms of advocating for our rights or establishing ourselves in our respective communities. Rather, I feel that my generation has much to benefit from the intrinsic, embracing community that exists within the JACL, so that we can realize the importance of forming bonds with people who understand our unique Asian American culture, as well as develop the strength to stand in solidarity amidst the complexities that come with becoming adults in this fast-paced society. Our experience in the university system is only the introduction to much more adverse challenges that await us post-graduation. Finding a group in which we can take solace in times of distress, take shelter in the face of hardship, and take a breath of relief and joy in the arms of accepting community members is of the utmost importance to the younger generation of Asian Americans to which I belong. The JACL can provide all of these things for us and more, and I only hope to promote this fact above all other things to my peers."

Greater L.A. Singles

Chapter is proud of

2010 Hana Uno

Shepard Scholarship

Winner, Kristen

Deignan of Torrance,

CA. Kristen will

attend Cal Poly.
Congratulations Alyssa!
Keep up the good work!

Love,
Your Family

Congratulations Kaila, we’re proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad,
Grandma Rose &
Grandpa Al Kishi,
Grandma Joan &
Grandpa Keiji Yoshitomi

LINDSEY ODA
way to go!

Grandpa & Grandma
(Fred & Ellen Shimazaki)

Congrats Katie!

Love,
Grandma O, Mom,
Mark, Auntie Pam & family

Minoru Yasui
Memorial Scholarship
A civil rights advocate and attorney, Yasui challenged the
imposition of Japanese Americans during WWII

Paul Fisk
Salt Lake City JACL
University of Utah

“I believe placing a strong emphasis on social justice at the chapter level will draw in many young Asian Americans. Many young people that I have talked with at JACL events such as conventions and youth conferences have expressed to me that they are interested in JACL because of the organization’s role in standing up for human and civil rights. I was very impressed at the national convention in Salt Lake City at the number of young people who were interested in the JACL taking a stance on human rights violations in North Korea. This is something many people were very passionate about and expended a lot of energy on making sure it would pass at the convention. I think that chapters can sometimes fall into the trap of just having activities that are festivals or other cultural activities without a social justice stance. I believe that this approach often does not draw in or inspire young people to join. I know that National JACL does a lot of great things in regards to civil rights issues such as supporting gay marriage but I don’t think many young people who are not JACL members know about this. I believe promoting and pushing JACL as a leading civil rights organization at a local and more personal level will draw in many more young people than just doing the same festivals every year.”

Henry & Chiyyo Kuwahara
Memorial Scholarship

Emily Leach
San Francisco JACL
Univ. of Calif., Los Angeles

Ever since I was a child I can recall the greater Japanese American (JA) community’s concern with the involvement — or lack thereof — from the younger generation. This worry was mixed with another very vocal debate about the role of civil rights organization in the community and dilution of Japanese blood to a new generation of multiracial Japanese Americans. I am not alone in perceiving that, in retrospect, much of the lack of participation in the younger generation now is due to a history of exclusivity within the JA community and the failure of the community to change its messaging about the role of its multiracial peers at a crucial turning point in the demographic of the community itself. Today this dynamic also extends towards the gap between the Yonsei and the Shin Nisei, members of the community who tend to be of the same age, but hold very different perceptions on what it means to be Japanese American. Therefore, in order to make the JACL more relevant to the younger generation of Asian Americans, I would develop new media to promote inclusivity in the JA community and programming about current civil rights struggles akin to the work of JACL such as the current movement of Middle Eastern, Muslim and South Asian people against unfair treatment during America’s war against terror.

Railroad & Mine Workers
Memorial Scholarship

Jacqueline Mac
Chicago JACL

Minoru Yasui
University of Maryland, College Park

“I realize that I am standing at the crossroads of my life waiting to make these life-altering decisions. These include, ‘Should I go for my doctorate?’ ‘Should I begin thinking about starting a family?’ How do I find a job and obtain job security?’... Essentially, the theme of these questions can be summed up as the next step in life.”

Chiyoko and Thomas
Shimazaki Scholarship

Shimazaki was an active member of the Greater Los Angeles JACL, bringing forth singles concerns to the national organization.

Katherine Sanui
Florin JACL
University of Calif., Davis

“Ever since I was a child I can recall the greater Japanese American (JA) community’s concern with the involvement — or lack thereof — from the younger generation. This worry was mixed with another very vocal debate about the role of civil rights organization in the community and dilution of Japanese blood to a new generation of multiracial Japanese Americans. I am not alone in perceiving that, in retrospect, much of the lack of participation in the younger generation now is due to a history of exclusivity within the JA community and the failure of the community to change its messaging about the role of its multiracial peers at a crucial turning point in the demographic of the community itself. Today this dynamic also extends towards the gap between the Yonsei and the Shin Nisei, members of the community who tend to be of the same age, but hold very different perceptions on what it means to be Japanese American. Therefore, in order to make the JACL more relevant to the younger generation of Asian Americans, I would develop new media to promote inclusivity in the JA community and programming about current civil rights struggles akin to the work of JACL such as the current movement of Middle Eastern, Muslim and South Asian people against unfair treatment during America’s war against terror.”

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Railroad & Mine Workers
Memorial Scholarship

Jacqueline Mac
Chicago JACL

“The San Fernando Valley JACL congratulates Christine Fukushima for winning the 2010 Henry and Chiyyo Kuwahara Scholarship.
will need to get their children and their children’s friends involved at a young age. By embracing the age of electronics and globalization, the JACL can offer family-friendly activities such as origami folding, kimono “fashion shows,” obon dancing classes, basic Japanese-dish cooking classes, and Japanese animation movie nights. This will encourage family involvement as well as promote younger generations to associate the JACL with enjoyable, culture-rich activities. As these generations get older, they are more likely to not only want to be active in JACL activities and governance, but they will also want to take an active role in mentoring the next generation doing those activities that they enjoyed so much.”

Magoichi & Shizuko Kato Memorial Scholarship

Greg Toya
San Diego JACL
Univ. of Calif., San Diego, Calif. State Univ., San Marcos

“As a Japanese Okinawan American first-generation university graduate, I model persistence and sacrifice to accomplish pioneering educational milestones for my family, community, and younger generations of Asian Americans. In reciprocating the ‘kodomo no tame ni’ spirit of my community elders and professional mentors, I develop the younger generation of Asian American leaders by serving as a higher education student affairs educator. As a Sanse growing up with ethnic cultural pride but with little Japanese language ability, the JET program sharpened my ability to promote learning across continents. Upon arrival to Japan, a Japanese elementary student said to me ‘How come you look like me? Where’s the blonde hair and blue eyes?’ Learning how to respond to this question reflects the importance of developing a strong Asian American identity as a youth.”

LAW AWARDS

Grace Andow
Memorial Scholarship
Andow, a longtime member of the Cleveland JACL, was a wedding planner who later studied to be a legal secretary. She gave all of her spare time to the JACL.

Emily Iwasaki
Salt Lake City JACL
University of Utah
“... To facilitate the relevance of the JACL to the younger generation, I think it is important for the JACL to direct some activities or events directly towards the youth. By appealing to their interests and desires, I think that the JACL would be more successful in garnering youth participation. Specifically, I think it would be important for JACL youth to be able to connect with other Japanese American youth throughout the state and throughout the country. By connecting with others, I think they could build a strong camaraderie with each other and would be more willing to participate in activities or events because they would have friends in the group. In order to foster such bonding, I think youth-specific activities are important (such as group outings, group trips, or group socials). For example, I think that it is extremely beneficial for JACL youth, and Japanese American youth in general, to be able to identify and connect with their heritage and their ancestors... Through their appreciation and association with the Japanese American experience, I honestly believe that the younger generation would realize the importance of an organization such as the JACL and would be more willing and active in their membership and participation.”

Thomas T. Hayashi
Memorial Scholarship
Christopher Lapinig
New England JACL
Yale Law School
“I believe JACL can strengthen its appeal to younger generations through greater use of the arts. Encouraged by increasingly rich minority representation in the media, Asian American youth have rallied around the arts as...”

www.pacificcitizen.org

www.jaclmdc.org

Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients AND applicants. Your accomplishments are considerable and admirable. Your successful efforts reflect well on you, your families and your communities. Best wishes in all your future endeavors.

DAVID KAWAMOTO, National JACL President
CAROL KAWAMOTO, National JACL Scholarship Committee Chair
a potent means of voicing their concerns and claiming a space for themselves in society. To name just a few, Japanese and Filipino American hip-hop dancers have topped several seasons of "America's Best Dance Crew," Korean American actors appear regularly on popular shows such as "Lost," Chinese and Vietnamese American spoken-word artists have gained national fame, and South Asian American writers have garnered prestigious literary awards. For many young Americans, the arts go hand in hand with activism: the arts can mobilize people into action. To that end, JACL can link the media it sponsors and produces with action alerts relevant to ongoing JACL campaigns. By pairing new media with its activism, JACL can inspire young Asian Americans to get involved and then provide them with instant opportunities to do so. JACL can leverage the arts and new media to position itself as a continued innovator in the civil rights arena.

Mary Reiko Osaka
Memorial Scholarship

"Although younger generations of Asian Americans no longer encounter the same struggles as older generations, there is a commonality in both experiences. Younger generations of Asian Americans today still face discrimination but prejudices are subtly masked in different forms. Inequality in job and educational attainment among Asian Americans, discrepancies in health outcomes, the perpetuation of the Model Minority Myth, and the treatment of Muslim Americans following September 11th are all reminders of the injustices plaguing the younger generations of Asian Americans today. Highlighting the commonality between the struggles of the different generations, the efforts taken by older generations to combat prejudices, and the importance of younger generations to continue to fight to eradicable injustices and uphold the legacy of those who paved the way. Younger generations of Asian Americans may be able to identify with the organization and be motivated to participate ... in addition to the academic setting, the JACL can also foster community among younger generations of Asian Americans in a professional setting. Through involvement in young professional development groups and events, the JACL can reach out to Asian American young professionals interested in social justice. Through sponsoring young professional happy hours and gatherings, Asian American professionals could strengthen their professional networks, meet others with similar interests in promoting social justice, build a community with individuals in the group, and learn about the JACL...."

Shirley Tang
Washington, D.C.
UC Hastings College of Law

"... and name just a few. Japanese and South Asian American writers and new media to position itself as a continued innovator in the civil rights arena."

Mary Reiko Osaka
Memorial Scholarship

"... and name just a few. Japanese and South Asian American writers and new media to position itself as a continued innovator in the civil rights arena."
TRIBUTE

Alice Hamako Shinoda
January 12, 1914 - August 23, 2010

After 96 years of an eventful and wonderful life, Alice Hamako (Fujisawa) Shinoda died peacefully at the Keiro Nursing Home in Los Angeles on August 23, 2010. Born in Los Angeles on January 12, 1914, she attended local schools and graduated from Manual Arts High School in 1932 before meeting the love of her life, Paul Shinoda, whom she married in 1936.

By 1941, they had built a life and family, with Paul's successful flower nursery in Torrance and Alice raising a family of three children. When WWII broke out, Alice and Paul refused to cooperate with the government's orders and decided to leave the restricted military zone of their own accord. In the middle of the night, the Shinoda family defied a travel restriction and left California for Idaho, eventually settling in Grand Junction, Colorado.

After the war, they returned to Torrance where Paul resumed his nursery business, San Lorenzo Nursery Company. With the birth of three more children, Alice devoted herself to raising her children. In 1965, Paul moved his nursery to Santa Barbara where he and Alice built a beautiful home (later destroyed in the Painted Cave fire in 1990) and laid down deep roots in the community. Alice was active as a member of Bethany Congregational Church, as a leader with the Tres Condados Girl Scouts Council, and as a life long member of the JACL.

Alice traveled throughout the world with Paul after he retired and throughout the United States in one of many RVs they owned, making life-long friends along the way. Alice and Paul also spent 18 summers on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska, enjoying visits by family and friends and delighting in teaching them to fish for salmon and dig for clams.

Alice will be remembered as a devoted mother to her six children and their families, and as a loving aunt to her many nieces and nephews. She was a warm, generous, kind and loving person who welcomed all into her home and was loved and treasured by all.

She will be missed by her children Paul Jr, Carol (John) Tateishi, Michael (Charlene Ajitu), Irene (Robert) Thornton, Roxanne (Wade) Nomura, daughter-in-law Kyma Shinoda, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Paul, her beloved husband of 72 years, her son David and grandson Patrick Shinoda Thornton.

A memorial service will be held at Gardena Valley Baptist Church, 1630 W. 158th Street in Gardena on Saturday, October 9th at 11:00 am. Donations may be made in Alice’s memory to Bethany Congregational Church, 556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara CA 93110; to JEMS (Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society), 948 E. 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012; or to the Morning Rotary of Carpentería Charitable Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 703, Carpenteria, CA 93014, for its sponsorship of the Tomó Play Area Project.

TRIBUTE

Edward H. Matsuoka
November 6, 1925 – August 17, 2010

After a lengthy illness, Edward H. Matsuoka, passed away peacefully on August 17th. Ed was the eldest son of Isuto and Hagino Matsuoka and lived in Brawley and Los Angeles before internment in Gila River, AZ. He attended University of Denver and later moved to the Bay Area where he attended UC Berkeley. A longtime resident of El Cerrito, where he lived with his wife of over 50 years, Eiko Yamamoto Matsuoka, Ed spent a 43-year career with the East Bay Municipal Utility District and attended Sycamore Congregational Church. He loved fishing and camping and was an avid reader throughout his life. He will be missed and remembered by Eiko, three children, Martha (Anthony), David (Joyce) and Tina (Dick), brother Ernest, grandchildren Christopher and Nicholas and many friends and family.

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